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Re: Wesley W.  
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# Supporters of Nyden Mounting Smear Campaign, Posvar Says

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Post-Gazette Staff Writer

Wesley W. Posvar, chancellor of the University of Pittsburgh, yesterday accused supporters of fired professor Paul J. Nyden of mounting a smear campaign of false statements against him and other university officials.

Posvar made his remarks near the close of a two-hour board of trustees meeting at which supporters of Nyden were refused permission to discuss the issue.

Nyden's wife, Linda, a graduate student at Pitt, was threatened with arrest by board president William H. Rea when she interrupted the meeting and pressed for a hearing of the case.

"I order you to cease and desist," Rea told Linda Nyden after several interruptions in a 10 minute period.

"You mean I have no right to speak?" she asked.

"You have no right to speak," Rea answered.

"Will we have a right to speak at your January meeting?"

"We will consider it," Rea said.

Nyden, his wife, and a dozen supporters then left the meeting in the

basement of the Stephen Foster Memorial in Oakland and held court for newsmen in the lobby under the lights of television cameras.

Posvar, who has been accused by Nyden supporters of intervening in the case, did not address the issue until nearly two hours later.

"Apart from the merits of the case," Posvar said, "I denounce the use of false statements, misstatements, half truths, innuendos and ad hominem attacks in the public media."

"There is no defense against this," Posvar added. "A smear is a smear."

A full page ad in the Monday edition of the Pitt News paid for by Nyden supporters linked Posvar to the Central Intelligence Agency by virtue of his association with the Rand Corp.

Posvar, who is a trustee of the Rand Corp., said after the meeting that the CIA allegation is patently false.

Nyden's contract as an assistant professor of sociology was not renewed by a 14-1 vote of the senior faculty in the department last March. He has charged that he was fired because of his Marxist views and support of the rank-and-file labor movement. Corporate leaders on the board of trustees

objected to his views, Nyden has charged.

Posvar said there has been no intervention by his office in the Nyden case which is going through university appeals.

The chancellor said the large number of corporate leaders on the board of trustees is a tremendous asset.

"These are people of leadership and that is something we need and want," Posvar said.